

(FM) Washington; WINX Rockville, Md.; WSID Baltimore, and WMUR-TV Manchester, N. H., were filed last week. The present licenses expire March 1.

Some fm applications put in cold storage

The FCC's processing of applications for new fm stations isn't exactly "frozen" but things are cold and will get colder before the "thaw" sets in.

This is essentially what the commission's new "interim procedure" for processing fm applications means. The temporary rules were announced last week when the FCC formally denied several pending petitions for a full or partial freeze on fm grants.

The new "procedure," effective last Wednesday (Dec. 6), actually will "freeze" a large majority of the 150-odd pending applications for new commercial fm stations. This will be so because most of the applications conflict in some way with the commission's proposed new fm rules (BROADCASTING, July 3).

Under the new requirements, it will be possible to grant new fm stations in sparsely-populated areas removed from other fm stations but a grant in a metropolitan area will be next to

impossible, a commission official said.

Applications now on file will be processed where the facility sought will not receive or cause interference within its 1 mv/m contour or cause interference within the 1 mv/m contour of another proposed or existing station. In addition, the new station's coverage may not be more than that of an existing station with 20 kw and antenna 500 feet above average terrain.

Who Gets Frozen ■ The commission said it will review fm applications now pending, including 30 in hearing status, to determine whether they are consistent with the interim criteria. If an application does not conflict, a grant will be possible but, if it does violence to the proposed new fm rules, the applicant will be notified that a grant cannot be made and the application will be withdrawn from the processing line, the FCC said.

Future applications which conflict with the new fm rules will not be acceptable for filing but pending applications may be amended to meet the new requirements, the commission said. Educational fm applications are exempt from the interim requirement except that in the computation of service and interference, the applicant will be required to use the same propagation curves as the commercial applicants.

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These are the curves proposed for tv chs. 2-6 as well as in the fm rulemaking.

In actual practice, an unofficial fm "freeze" has been in force at the commission since early October. The last commercial fm grant was made Oct. 2 (except for an initial decision which was finalized two weeks ago) and no new cases have been prepared for FCC action.

Two California applicants felt the chill of the commission freeze before they had time to build a fire. An oral argument had been scheduled for last Friday (Dec. 8) between G. Stuart Nixon, fm applicant in San Jose, and KHIP San Francisco, seeking an fm there, but it was canceled because their proposals were in conflict with the proposed rules.

Warm Weather Start ■ The commission instituted its fm rulemaking, which would result in a drastic change in the method of allocating fm channels, last summer. Comments were filed last month (BROADCASTING, Nov. 20) and reply comments now are due Jan. 10 following an extension just granted.

A petition for the extension by A. Earl Cullum Jr., consulting engineer, was denied last Monday but Thursday the same request by the Assn. of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers was granted by the commission.

BROADCASTING CBS DEFENDS

Tv network responds angrily against compensation plan

Without mincing words, CBS-TV last week told the FCC that the commission's attack of the networks' graduated affiliate compensation plan is way off base.

CBS submitted a point-by-point written denunciation of the FCC's charges that the plan violates commission rules, prevents, hinders and penalizes affiliates from accepting programming of other networks and that it hurts program syndicators (BROADCASTING, Oct. 30).

The FCC does not have the statutory authority to inject the government into compensation arrangements between network and affiliates, CBS further told the commission. "The CBS compensation arrangements represent merely an effort to permit CBS to compete freely with its competitors," the network said.

"The attack on the CBS compensation arrangements from several sources is, we submit, but part of a campaign to reduce, by governmental fiat, the incentive to clear network programs, whatever the means used to seek such clearances."

The network maintained that Sec